

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03979 051941Z

63

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 MC-02

ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W

----- 028845

R 051702Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3816

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT: STATUS AS OF MAY 5

REF: BRUSSELS 3708

SUMMARY: BELGIANS HAVE HELD TWO MORE MEETINGS: FIRST AT WORKING LEVEL WITH FRENCH, GERMANS AND DUTCH ON APRIL 30; SECOND, AT CABINET LEVEL WITH DUTCH MAY 3. NO DECISIONS TAKEN OR EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS' VISIT TO PARIS ON MAY 9 AND POSSIBLY NOT BY MAY 15. ANOTHER MEETING OF CONSORTIUM COUNTRY MODS IS EXPECTED ON MAY 12. END SUMMARY.

1. BELGIAN DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVIGNON CHAIRED A MEETING APRIL 30 WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR, GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03979 051941Z

UNSPECIFIED DUTCH REP. WE ARE INFORMED THAT PURPOSE OF

MEETING WAS TO EXPLORE FURTHER WHAT STEPS FRANCE MIGHT TAKE TOWARDS MILITARY COOPERATION WITHIN NATO, SHOULD BELGIUM OPT FOR THE MIRAGE. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS NOT RPT NOT TO DISCUSS HYPOTHETICAL JOINT PRODUCTION OF YET ANOTHER F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO OUR INFO, NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AND GERMANY HELD TO THEIR POSITION THAT BRITISH AND ITALIANS SHOULD BE INVITED TO JOIN IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. WEST GERMAN MOD IS REPORTED TO HAVE SENT BELGIAN MOD LETTER SAYING FRG ALWAYS WELCOMED DISCUSSIONS, BUT DID NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN DUPLICATING WORK ALREADY DONE. BELGIAN PRESS EXPECTS FURTHER TALKS BY THIS GROUP BUT NO DATES HAVE BEEN SET.

3. BELGIAN-DUTCH MAY 3 MEETING WAS HELD FOR THREE HOURS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS ACCCOMPANIED BY THEIR FOREIGN, DEFENSE, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTERS, PLUS ON BELGIAN SIDE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE WALLOON REGION ECONOMY (WHO REPRESENTS KEY TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT COALITION PARTY, THE RW-- SEE REFTEL). IT WAS CAREFULLY IDENTIFIED IN ADVANCE AS ANOTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE REPLACEMENT ISSUE, NOT AS A DECISION-MAKING SESSION. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TOLD PRESS THAT BELGIAN DECISION WOULD NOT BE TAKEN BEFORE HIS MAY 9 TRIP TO PARIS (SEE FOLLOWING PARA) AND SAID FURTHER THAT HE COULD NOT STATE FLPLY THAT DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN BY MAY 15.

3. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN HIS EC-9 DESIGNATED "WISEMAN" ROLE IN MAY 9 COUNCIL OF EUROPE CEREMONIES IN PARIS TO CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCHUMAN DECLARATION. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, TINDEMANS IS STILL COLLECTING IDEAS ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND HAS NOT YET REACHED THE STAGE OF FORMING RECOMMENDATIONS. HE WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD, AND WHILE REPLACEMENT ISSUE IS NOT ON THEIR AGENDA, IT WILL COME UP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FUTURE OF EUROPE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED US OF FOLLOWING IN CONNECTION WITH APRIL 30 FOUR-COUNTRY MEETING AND "UNSCHEDULED" TINDEMANS-GISCARD TALKS ON AIRPLANES. THE ISSUE IS "EUROPEAN PREFERENCE" A PHRASE WHICH MEANS BUYING FROM AN EUROPEAN SUPPLIER WHEN A EURPEAN COUNTRY IS SHOPPING FOR A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 03979 051941Z

NEEDED WEAPONS SYSTEM. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE HOUSE (BELGIUM, IN PARTICULAR) IS WHETHER THE LWF ACQUISITION SHOULD BE DECIDED ON THE BASIS OF "EUROPEAN PREFERENCE". THE FRENCH NATURALLY SAY THAT IT SHOULD - IN SHORT, THE F-1 IS A SUITABLE RE-PLACEMENT FOR THE F-104 AND, OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL OR ALMOST EQUAL, IT SHOLD BE CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF EUROPEAN PREFERENCE. THE TROUBLE WITH THIS POSITION - FROM THE BELGIAN AND OTHER EURO COUNTRIES'

STANDPOINT - IS THAT FRANCE IS NOT CO-EQUAL WITH EUROPE.
WHAT COMMITMENT WILL FRANCE MAKE TO EUROPEAN PREFERENCE
IN PRINCIPLE - I.E., WILL FRANCE COMMIT TO BUY EUROPEAN IF THE
NEXT WEAPONS SYSTEM IS NOT FRENCH? FRANCE HAS AAID, "WE ARE
READY TO TALK ABOUT A COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN PREFERENCE, BUT
WE MUST TALK ABOUT EXISTING PROGRAMS. AFTER ALL, IF YOU DO NOT
BUY FRENCH IN THE LWF REPLACEMENT QUESTION THEN WHAT IS THE USE
OF MAKING A "EUROPEAN" COMMITMENT? LET US BEGIN THE POLICY OF
EUROPEAN PREFERENCE BY BUYING THE EUROPEAN (FRENCH) OFFERING
IN THE LWF ACQUISITION DECISION." OTHER COUNTRIES COUNTER
THE FRENCH ARGUMENT BY SAYING THAT THE FRENCH LWF IS NOT THE
ONLY EXISTING WEAPONS PROGRAM. THE MRCA EXISTS. IT FLIES. WHAT
IS FRANCE'S POSITION ON THE MRCA? FRANCE HAS SO FAR AVOIDED A
REPLY. IT HAS OFFERED NO COMMITMENT TO A EUROPEAN
PREFERENCE IN THE FUTURE IF THE WEAPONS SYSTEM TURNS OUT NOT
TO BE FRENCH. IF FRANCE IS UNABLE TO MAKE A CONVINCING
COMMITMENT TO EUROPE, CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO MAKE
LWF DECISION "ON ITS MERITS AND TRY FOR A
EUROPEAN COMMITMENT ANOTHER DAY".

5. FURTHER MEETING OF FOUR CONSORTIUM COUNTRY MODS
IS EXPECTED O/A MAY 12.FIRESTONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MEETINGS, F-104, CONSORTIUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE03979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750157-0501
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750579/aaaactxc.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRUSSELS 3708
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by lzenbel0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-104 REPLACEMENT: STATUS AS OF MAY 5
TAGS: MASS, BE
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006